



MEMORANDUM

Division of Medicaid and Health Financing
Bureau of Authorization and Community Based Services

DATE: May, 2012

TO: 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Operating Agencies

FROM: State Medicaid Agency

RE: **Communicable Disease Reporting**

Due to the recent discovery of unreported communicable diseases diagnosed among waiver participants residing in group homes, the State Medicaid Agency is providing the following guidance to the waiver operating agencies regarding the reporting of communicable diseases.

The state lists more than 70 diseases which require a report to the Utah Department of Health, according to Utah Administrative Code (R386-702-3 and R386-702-4 Communicable Disease Rules). Diseases are included on the list because they have public health implications, e.g. are easily transmissible, have a significant probability of severe morbidity or mortality or may represent emerging infections. Most diseases that are reportable in Utah require reporting within three working days of identification. However there is also a group, of diseases, that is reportable within 24 hours of identification.

In order to assure the health and welfare of waiver participants, it is required that communicable diseases be reported by individuals who have knowledge of others who have a communicable disease. Provider training on prevention of communicable diseases should include the Utah Department of Health website, which provides comprehensive information related to communicable diseases and reporting. Click on the "Disease Reporting" link to access "How to Report" and the list of "Utah's Reportable Diseases". The website is listed at the bottom of this memo.

Please note that patient authorization for the disclosure of information related to the reporting of a communicable disease to public health is waived under HIPAA's provisions. (Please refer to the "HIPAA link" located on the Utah Department of Health Epidemiology Website).

If you have questions, please contact Arleen Watkins at (801) 538-6696. Thank you.

Utah Department of Health Epidemiology Website: <http://health.utah.gov/epi>